Remarks:

The Applicants note that the Office Action Summary indicates that claims 1-6, 20-38 and 48-52 were pending in the present application. However, claims 1-16, 20-38 and 48-52 were pending in the present application prior to the current Amendment. Claims 1, 13 and 20 are amended above. New claims 53-71 are added above. Claims 1-16, 20-38 and 48-71 are now pending in the present application.

The Applicants note that the Office Action Summary does not indicate whether the drawings filed in the application are acceptable. Confirmation of their acceptability is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Office Action at page 7 indicates that claims 48-52 are allowed and that claims 10 and 32 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants wish to defer submission of claims 10 and 30 rewritten in independent form, pending the outcome of the present response.

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad (United States Patent No. 6,490,749) in view of Kimbro (United States Patent No. 6,718,589) and Burrows (United States Patent No. 3,197,169). Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad in view of Kimbro and Burrows, in further view of Siemund (United States Patent No. 4,077,083). Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad in view of Kimbro and Burrows, in further view of Hulterstrum (United States Patent No. 3,433,510). Claims 20-26, 28-31 and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad in view of Kimbro, Burrows and Hulterstrum, in further view of Newville (United States Patent No. 5,551,115). Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad in view of Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville, in further view of Siemund. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

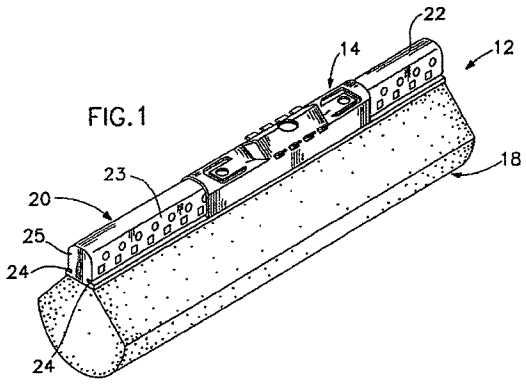
Independent claim 1 is amended herein to clarify that a "mount" comprises a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane."

Independent claim 20 is amended herein to clarify that a "mounting system" comprises a "coupler including quick-release handles operatively coupled with retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting the coupler to the body, and a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole."

35 U.S.C. 103 Rejections

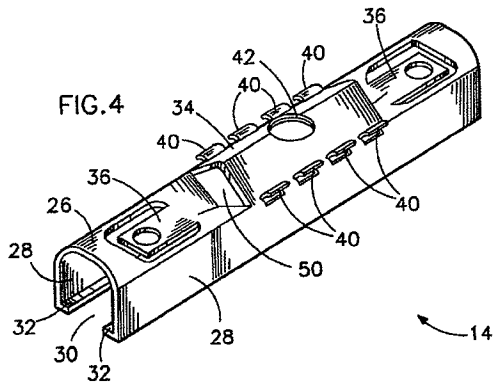
With regard to the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Morad, Kimbro and Burrows, it is submitted that the combination of Morad, Kimbro and Burrows fails to teach or suggest a "mount" that comprises a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, while permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1.

FIG.1



Universal adapter attached to a sponge mop as shown in Figure 1 of Morad.

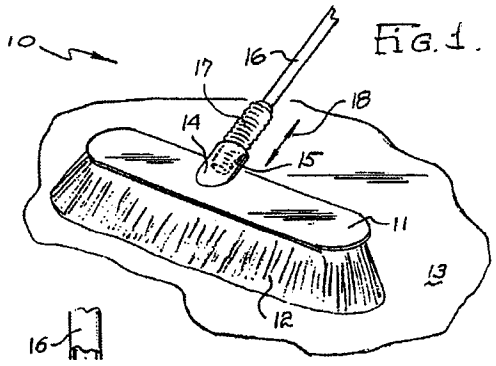
FIG.4



Universal adapter as shown in Figure 4 of Morad.

Morad teaches a universal adapter 14 having horizontal rails 32, which slidably engage into transverse mounting grooves 24 of a brace 20 of a sponge mop head assembly 12 (see Morad, Figures 1-3, and column 3, lines 25-27). In one embodiment, Morad further teaches that the universal adapter 14 comprises a central hook catch section 34, which forms a transverse opening 50 for receiving a hook type attachment 2 of a mop handle 9 (see Morad, Figures 4 and 5, and column 3, lines 28-33). In another embodiment, Morad teaches that the universal adapter 14 comprises a pair of bendable flanges 36 with openings 38 for securely receiving a tongue and grove type attachment 4 of another mop handle 9 (see Morad, Figures 4 and 6, and column 3, lines 45-48). In another embodiment, Morad further teaches that the universal adapter 14 comprises a plurality of flange tips 40 that slidably receive a sliding type attachment 6 of another mop handle 9 (see Morad, Figures 4 and 7, column 3, lines 50-55). In another embodiment, Morad further teaches that the universal adapter comprises a threaded type attachment 8 for receiving another mop handle 9 (see Morad, Figures 4 and 8, and column 3, lines 35-37). It is stated in the Office Action at page 3, that Morad fails to teach or suggest a mounting pole including a compression mechanism along a longitudinal axis thereof, and fails to teach the length of the elongated body being at least one foot.

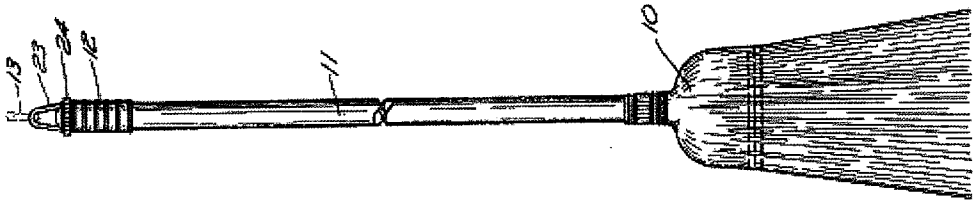
Morad fails to teach or suggest a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1. Instead in Morad, the universal adapter 14 and the plurality of mop handle attachments (i.e. hook type 2, tongue and grove type 4, sliding type 6, and threaded type 8) prevent the longitudinal axis of the sponge mop head assembly 12, including the brace 20, from rotating relative to the mop handle 9 in a common plane (see Morad, Figures 5-8), that is, one of skill in the art would readily understand that the structural arrangement of the abovementioned mop handle attachments would prevent the sponge mop head assembly 12 from rotating relative to the mop handle 9 in a common plane. Moreover, rollers 3 of the handles 9 are located at sidewalls 28 of the universal adapter 14 further preventing the sponge mope head assembly 12 from rotating relative to the mop handle 9 in a common plane (see, Morad, Figures 5-8).



Push broom as shown in Figure 1 of Kimbro.

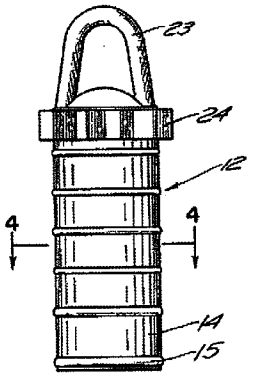
Kimbro teaches a push broom 10 including a brush head 11 with bristles 12, and a handle with linear sections 15, 16 (see, Kimbro, Figure 1, reproduced above, and column 3, lines 18-32). Kimbro further teaches that the liner section 15 of the handle includes a threaded stud 23, which engages the threaded socket 14 of the brush head 11 (see, Kimbro Figures 1 and 2, and column 3, lines 38-41). It is stated in the Office Action at page 4, that Morad in view of Kimbro fails to teach a mounting member to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of a room such that when the mounting member is under compression between the first and second surfaces of the room to retain the mounting member and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room.

Like Morad, Kimbro fails to teach or suggest a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1. Instead in Kimbro, the threaded stud 23 of the linear section 15 of the handle is attached to the brush head 11 by a threadable engagement with the threaded socket 14, thus preventing the brush head 11 of the push broom 10 from rotating relative to the handle with linear sections 15, 16 in a common plane.



Broom with combination broom handle and guard as shown in Figure 1 of Burrows.

Burrows teaches a broom 10 attached to an elongated handle 11 (see, Burrows Figure 1). However, like Morad and Kimbro, Burrows fails to teach or suggest a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1. The broom 10 of Burrows is in no way configured to allow the broom 10 to rotate relative to the elongated handle 11 in a common plane (see Burrows, Figure 1, reproduced above).



Broom hanger and guard as shown in Figure 2 of Burrows.

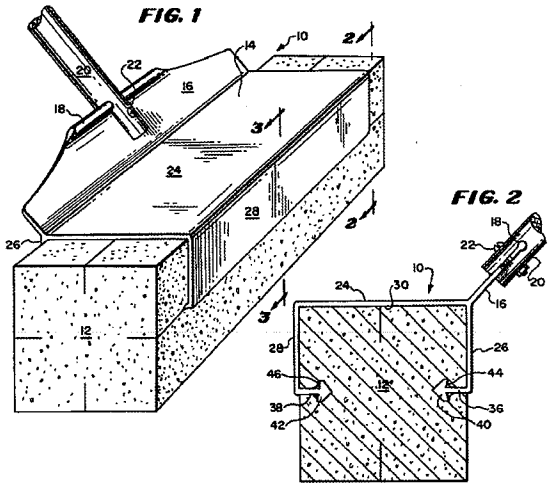
The Office Action at page 4, lines 9-13, asserts that "it would of been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the mount as taught by Morad in view of Kimbro to have incorporate the guard as taught by Burrows for the *purpose of preventing marring of the walls when the mount is lean against that surface.*" Although the guard of Burrows may prevent the broom of Burrows from marring walls (see Burrows, column 1, lines 13-16), the Examiner's assertion, nevertheless, fails to justify the lack of teaching in Morad and Kimbro of a "mounting member being of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of the room," "to retain the

mounting member and body in a fixed position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room," as claimed in claim 1. Applicants submit that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to incorporate the guard 12 of Burrows with the mount as taught by Morad in view of Kimbro. If the guard 12 of Burrows were to be applied to the end of the handle 16 of the Kimbro push broom 10, the bail handle 23 of the guard 12 would prevent the handle 15, 16 of Burrows and the brace 20 of Morad from being "fixed" in position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room. Since the guard 12 of Burrows is molded in a single piece of an elastomeric material (see Burrows, column 1, lines 61-62), one of skill in the art would readily understand that the bail handle 23 of Burrows would deform under compression, thereby preventing handle 15, 16 of Burrows and the brace 20 of Morad from being "fixed" in position relative to the first and second surfaces of the room. Further, one of skill in the art would readily understand that the broom 10 and handle 11 of Burrows is a typical household item that can be operated in a sweeping type motion within a room; therefore, the handle 11 of Burrows is obviously not "of a sufficient length to be fixed between a first surface of a room and a second surface of the room," as claimed in claim 1. That is, the length of the handle 11 of Burrows cannot exceed the length between a first and second surface of a room, or else it would not be operable as a household broom.

Applicant's arguments are directed to the combination of the references. That is, since none of the cited references (i.e. Morad, Kimbro and Burrows), taken alone, teaches or suggests a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1, there is no combination of the cited references (i.e. Morad, Kimbro and Burrows) that would provide such teaching or suggestion.

Accordingly, since Morad, Kimbro and Burrows fail to teach or suggest these claimed features, there is no way to combine the references to obtain teaching or suggestion of the claimed features, and therefore, there is no combination of the references that teaches or suggests the invention set forth in the amended claims.

Since Morad, Kimbro and Burrows, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the present invention set forth in amended independent claim 1, independent claim 1, and claims 2-5, 7-9, 11, 15 and 16 dependent thereon, are believed to be allowable over the combination of the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-9, 11, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on the combination of Morad, Kimbro and Burrows is respectfully requested.



Sponge mop as shown in Figures 1 and 2 of Siemund, et al

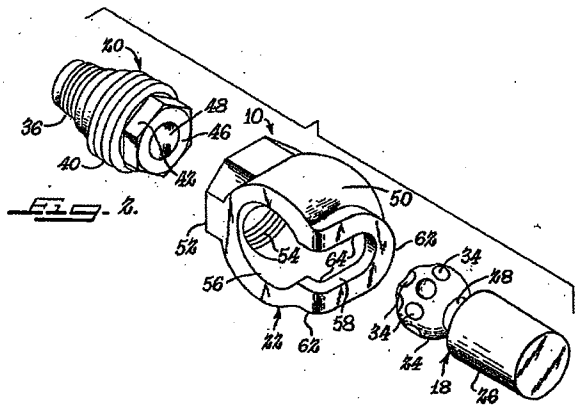
With regard to the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Siemund, et al., Siemund, et al. teaches a sponge rubber mop 10 including a handle 20, a retainer 14, and a sponge member 12 (see Siemund, et al., Figures 1 and 2, reproduced above). Siemund, et al., like Morad, Kimbro and Burrows, fails to teach or suggest a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1. Instead in Siemund, et al., the handle 20 is fixedly attached to a flange 16 of the retainer 14, and secured by a bolt/pin 22, thus preventing rotation of the retainer 14 relative to the handle 20 in a common plane.

Accordingly, since Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Siemund, et al. fail to teach or suggest these claimed features, there is no way to combine the references to obtain teaching or

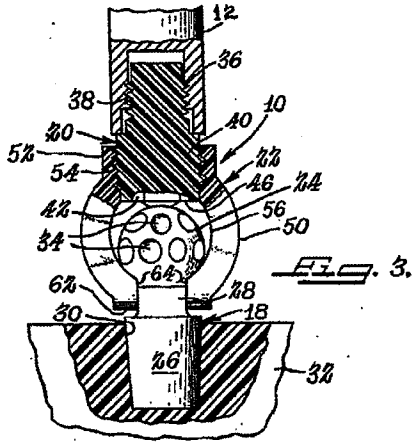
suggestion of the claimed features, and therefore, there is no combination of the references that teaches or suggests the invention set forth in the amended claims.

Since Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Siemund, et al., taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the present invention set forth in amended independent claim 1, claim 6 dependent thereon is believed to be allowable over the combination of the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on the combination of Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Siemund, et al. is respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejections of claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Hulterstrum, it is submitted that Hulterstrum, like Morad, Kimbro, and Burrows, fails to teach or suggest a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1.



Swivel structure as shown in Figure 2 of Hulterstrum.



Swivel structure utilized for connecting a brush portion to a handle portion as shown in Figure 3 of Hulterstrum.

Hulterstrum teaches a swivel structure 10 comprising an elongated body 18 that is rigidly connected to a brush portion 16, a tightening member 20 that is rigidly connected to a handle 12, and a hollow member 22 that joins the elongated body 18 to the tightening member 20 (see,

Hulterstrum, Figures 1-3, and column 2, lines 61-66). However, there is no teaching or suggestion of the swivel structure 10 of Hulterstrum being a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1. Instead, the elongated body 18 is permitted to rotate relative to the tightening member 20 in two degrees of rotation, that is, the elongated body can rotate at least 90° in the L-shaped aperture defined by aperture 56 and slot 58, and the elongated body can rotate 360° about its longitudinal axis (see, Hulterstrum, Figures 2 and 3, and column 4, lines 16-19).

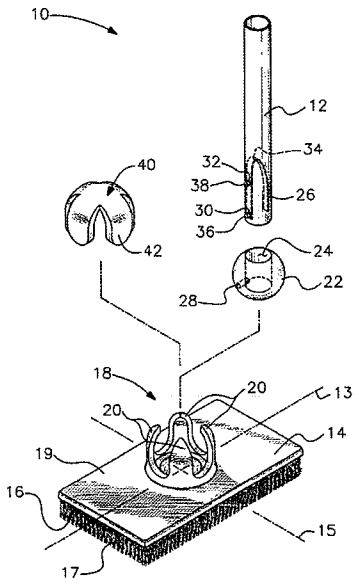
Further, after the tightening member 20 is firmly threaded into the hollow member 22, the interconnection between the elongated body 18 and the tightening member 22 becomes rigid, thus preventing rotation of the elongated body 18 about the tightening member 20 in any degree of rotation. Accordingly, it follows that there is no teaching or suggestion in Hulterstrum of a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1.

Accordingly, since Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Hulterstrum, fail to teach or suggest these claimed features, there is no way to combine the references to obtain teaching or suggestion of the claimed features, and therefore, there is no combination of the references that teaches or suggests the invention set forth in the amended claims.

Since Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Hulterstrum, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the present invention set forth in amended independent claim 1, claims 12-14 dependent thereon is believed to be allowable over the combination of the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on the combination of Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Hulterstrum is respectfully requested.

Applicants note that Newville was applied in combination with Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Hulterstrum in a rejection of claim 20 in the present Office Action. With regard to amended

claim 1 above, Applicants submit that Newville, like Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Hulterstrum, fails to teach or suggest a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1.



Brush assembly as shown in Figure 1 of Newville.

Newville teaches a brush assembly 10 comprising a brush head 14 having a ball-retaining socket 18, and a tubular handle 12 having a ball 22 attached thereto (see, Newville, Figure 1, and column 4, lines 30-33). However, there is no teaching or suggestion of the ball-retaining socket 18 of Newville being a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1. Instead in Newville, the ball-retaining socket 18 of Newville allows the tubular handle 12 to rotate relative to a longitudinal axis 13 of the brush head 14 and a transverse axis 15 of the brush head 14 (see, Newville, Figures 1, 4 and 5). Since the tubular handle 12 of Newville rotates in at least two degrees of rotation, it follows that Newville fails to teach or suggest a "coupler including a guide mechanism that limits rotation of" a "body relative to" a "mounting member to a single degree of rotation, permitting the longitudinal axis of the

body to rotate relative to the mounting member in a common plane," as claimed in amended independent claim 1.

With regard to the rejections of claims 20-26, 28-31 and 33-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville, it is submitted that Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville, fail to teach or suggest a "mounting system" comprising a "coupler including quick-release handles operatively coupled with retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting the coupler to the body, and a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole."

With regard to the limitations in claim 20 of "horizontal pivot," "lateral rotation," and "longitudinal rotation" of the "body relative to the pole," the Applicants note that the preventing of "longitudinal pivot" and the preventing of "lateral rotation" are defined and illustrated in the specification as filed at least at page 8, lines 11-21 referring to FIG. 4B, reference numerals 76 and 77 of FIG. 4B, and also at least at page 7, lines 6-8 and page 8, lines 6-8. The permitting of "longitudinal rotation" of the body relative to the pole is described and illustrated at least at page 7, lines 6-8 and at page 8, lines 6-8 of the specification as filed. Examples of such "longitudinal rotation" are also given at least at FIGs. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 11, which show the pole and body at different angles relative to each other.

As described above, Morad teaches a universal adapter 14 having horizontal rails 32, which slidably engage into transverse mounting grooves 24 of a brace 20 of a sponge mop head assembly 12 (see Morad, Figures 1-3, and column 3, lines 25-27). Morad further teaches a plurality of mop handle attachments (i.e. hook type 2, tongue and groove type 4, sliding type 6, and threaded type 8) that couple the universal adapter to a mop handle 9 (see Morad, Figures 4-8). However, there is no teaching or suggestion of the universal adapter 14 of Morad being a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. Instead, the universal adapter 14 and the plurality of mop handle attachments (i.e. hook type 2, tongue and groove type 4, sliding type 6, and

threaded type 8) prevent longitudinal rotation of the sponge mop head assembly 12, including the brace 20, relative to the mop handle 9. One of skill in the art would readily understand that the structural arrangement of the abovementioned mop handle attachments would prevent longitudinal rotation of the sponge mop head assembly 12 relative to the mop handle 9. Moreover, rollers 3 of the handles 9 are located at sidewalls 28 of the universal adapter 14, further preventing longitudinal rotation of the sponge mop head assembly 12 relative to the handle 9.

Morad further teaches that the universal adapter 14 comprises flanges 40 and horizontal rails 32. The flanges 40 slidably receive a sliding type attachment 6 of a handle 9 of Morad, and the horizontal rails 32 slidably engage into transverse mounting grooves 24 of the brace 20 of the sponge mop head assembly 12 of Morad (see Morad, Figures 1, 2 and 7 and column 3, lines 25-27 and 51-57). However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Morad of "quick-release handles operatively coupled with retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting the coupler to the body," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. Instead, one of skill in the art would readily understand that if a pressure was applied to the flanges 40 of Morad, the hollow body 30 including the horizontal rails 32 would compress inward, thus preventing the universal adapter from being removably mounted to the brace 20 of the sponge mop head assembly 12 of Morad.

As described above, Kimbro teaches a push broom 10 including a brush head 11, and a handle with linear sections 15, 16 (see Kimbro, Figure 1, and column 3, lines 18-31). Kimbro further teaches that the liner section 15 of the handle includes a threaded stud 23, which engages a threaded socket 14 of the brush head 11 (see Kimbro, Figures 1 and 2, and column 3, lines 38-41). However, there is no teaching or suggestion of the threaded socket 14 of Morad being a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. Instead, the threaded stud 23 of the linear section 15 of the handle is attached to the brush head 11 by a threadable engagement with the threaded socket 14, thus preventing longitudinal rotation of the brush head 11 of the push broom 10 relative to the handle 15, 16. In addition, Kimbro in no way teaches or suggest "quick-release

handles operatively coupled with retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting" a "coupler to the body," as claimed in amended independent claim 20.

As described above, Burrows teaches a broom 10 attached to an elongated handle 11 (see Burrows, Figure 1). However, like Morad and Kimbro, Burrows fails to teach or suggest a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. The broom 10 of Burrows is in no way configured to allow the broom 10 to rotate relative to the elongated handle 11 (see Burrows, Figure 1). In addition, Burrows in no way teaches or suggest "quick-release handles operatively coupled with retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting" a "coupler to the body," as claimed in amended independent claim 20.

As described above, Hulterstrum teaches a swivel structure 10 comprising an elongated body 18 that is rigidly connected to a brush portion 16, a tightening member 20 that is rigidly connected to a handle 12, and a hollow member 22 that joins the elongated body 18 to the tightening member 20 (see Hulterstrum, Figures 1-3, and column 2, lines 61-66). However, there is no teaching or suggest of the swivel structure 10 of Hulterstrum being a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. Instead, the elongated body 18 is permitted to rotate relative to the tightening member 20 in two degrees of rotation (i.e. lateral rotation and horizontal pivot), that is, the elongated body can rotate at least 90° in the L-shaped aperture defined by aperture 56 and slot 58, and the elongated body can rotate 360° about its longitudinal axis (see, Hulterstrum, Figures 2 and 3, and column 4, lines 16-19).

Further, after the tightening member 20 is firmly threaded into the hollow member 22, the interconnection between the elongated body 18 and the tightening member 22 becomes rigid, thus preventing rotation of the elongated body 18 about the tightening member 20 in any degree of rotation. Accordingly, it follows that there is no teaching or suggestion in Hulterstrum of a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the

body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. In addition, Hulterstrum in no way teaches or suggests "quick-release handles operatively coupled with retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting" a "coupler to the body," as claimed in amended independent claim 20.

As described above, Newville teaches a brush assembly 10 comprising a brush head 14 having a ball-retaining socket 18, and a tubular handle 12 having a ball 22 attached thereto (see, Newville, Figure 1, and column 4, lines 30-33). However, there is no teaching or suggestion of the ball-retaining socket 18 of Newville being a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. Instead in Newville, the ball-retaining socket 18 of Newville allows the tubular handle 12 to rotate about a longitudinal axis 13 of the brush head 14 and a transverse axis 15 (i.e. lateral rotation) of the brush head 14 (see, Newville, Figures 1, 4 and 5). Since, the brush head 14 of Newville rotates in a lateral degree of rotation , it follows that Newville fails to teach or suggest a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that limits horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body about the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. In addition, Newville in no way teaches or suggest "quick-release handles operatively coupled with retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting" a "coupler to the body," as claimed in amended independent claim 20.

Applicant's arguments are directed to the combination of the references. That is, since none of the cited references (i.e. Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville), taken alone, teaches or suggests a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20, there is no combination of the cited references (i.e. Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville) that would provide such teaching or suggestion. Further, Applicants submit that none of the cited references (i.e. Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville), taken alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "quick-release handles and retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting" a "coupler to the body," as claimed in amended independent claim 20.

Accordingly, since Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville, fail to teach or suggest these claimed features, there is no way to combine the references to obtain teaching or suggestion of the claimed features, and therefore, there is no combination of the references that teaches or suggests the invention set forth in the amended claims.

Since Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the present invention set forth in amended independent claim 20, independent claim 20, and claims 21-26, 28-31 and 33-38 dependent thereon, are believed to be allowable over the combination of the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejections of claims 20-26, 28-31 and 33-38 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on the combination of Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum and Newville is respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum, Newville, and Siemund, et a., Siemund, et al. teaches a sponge rubber mop 10 including a handle 20, a retainer 14, and a sponge member 12 (see Siemund, et al., Figure 1). Siemund, et al., like Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum, and Newville, fails to teach or suggest a "coupler" including "a guide mechanism that prevents horizontal pivot and lateral rotation of the body relative to the pole, while permitting longitudinal rotation of the body relative to the pole," as claimed in amended independent claim 20. Instead in Siemund, et al., the handle 20 is fixedly attached to a flange 16 of the retainer 14, and secured by a bolt/pin 22, thus preventing longitudinal rotation of the retainer 14 relative to the handle 20. In addition, Siemund, et al. in no way teaches or suggest "quick-release handles operatively coupled with retention tabs that engage" a "body for removably mounting" a "coupler to the body," as claimed in amended independent claim 20.

Accordingly, since Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum, Newville, and Siemund, et al. fail to teach or suggest these claimed features, there is no way to combine the references to obtain teaching or suggestion of the claimed features, and therefore, there is no combination of the references that teaches or suggests the invention set forth in the amended claims.

Since Morad, Kimbro, Burrows, Hulterstrum, Newville, and Siemund, et al., taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the present invention set forth in amended independent claim 20, claim 27 dependent thereon is believed to be allowable over the combination of the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on the combination of Morad, Kimbro, Burrows and Siemund, et al. is respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

It is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If prosecution of the application can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

In connection with the foregoing matter, please charge any additional fees which may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1798.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/24/08

Steven M. Mills
Registration Number 36,610
Attorney for Applicant

Mills & Onello, LLP
Eleven Beacon Street, Suite 605
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: (617) 994-4900, Ext. 4902
Facsimile: (617) 742-7774
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